

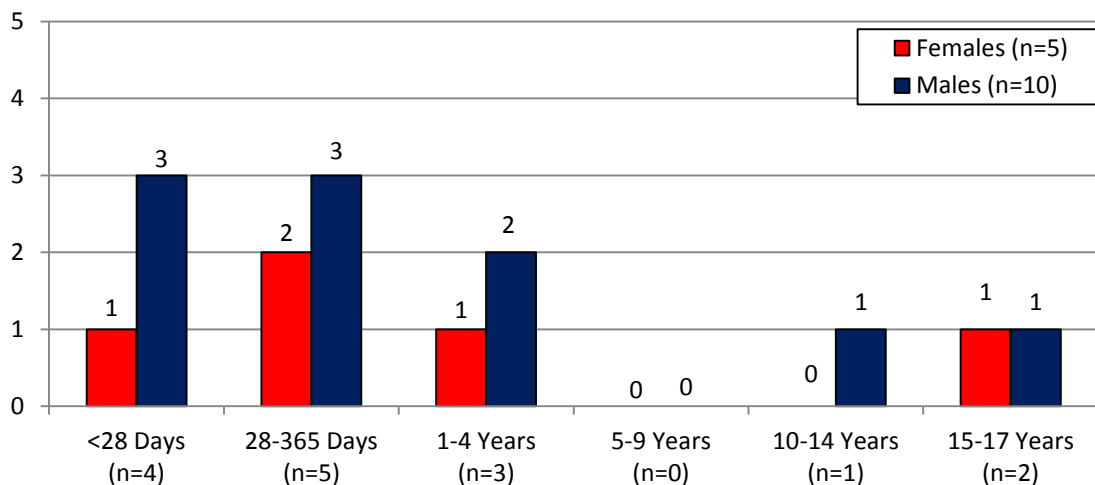


2011 CHILD FATALITY REVIEW FOR COCHISE COUNTY

DEMOGRAPHICS

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of Cochise County. During 2011, there were 15 deaths among Cochise County residents younger than 18 years of age. Males accounted for 67 percent of child deaths (n=10) and females accounted for 33 percent (n=5). Figure 1 shows deaths among children by sex and age group.

**Figure 1. Deaths Among Children by Sex and Age Group,
Cochise County, Arizona, 2011 (n=15)**



Deaths were over-represented among Hispanic children and African American children in this county. Hispanic children comprised 46 percent of the population but 47 percent of the fatalities (n=7). African American Children comprised 5 percent of the population but 13 percent of the deaths (n=2). White, non-Hispanic children comprised 45 percent of the population in this county but 40 percent of the fatalities (n=6).

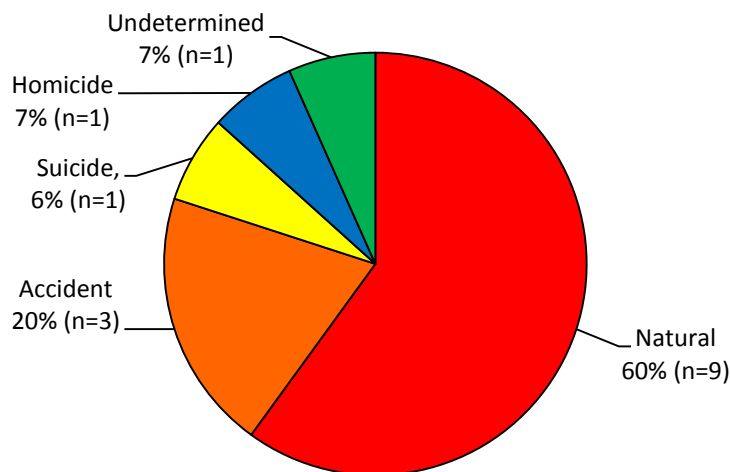
CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Cause of death refers to the injury or medical condition that resulted in death (e.g. firearm-related injury, pneumonia, cancer). Manner of death is not the same as cause of death, but specifically refers to the intentionality of the cause. For example, if the cause of death was a firearm-related injury, then the manner of death may have been intentional or unintentional. If it was intentional, then the manner of death was suicide or homicide. If it was unintentional, then the manner of death was an accident. In some cases, there was insufficient information to determine the manner of death, even though the cause was known. It may not have been clear that a firearm death was due to an accident, suicide, or homicide, and in these cases, the manner of death was listed as undetermined. Manners of death include:

- natural (e.g., cancer)
- accident (e.g., unintentional car crash)
- homicide (e.g., assault)
- suicide (e.g., self-inflicted intentional firearm injury)
- undetermined

Sixty percent of deaths were due to natural manners (n=9), and 20 percent of deaths were due to accidents (n=3). Figure 2 shows deaths among children by manner.

Figure 2. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Cochise County, Arizona, 2011 (n=15)



Eleven children died due to prematurity, eight children died from a medical cause and one child drowned. No children died from motor vehicle crashes. Table 1 shows deaths among children by cause and manner.

Table 1. Deaths Among Children by Cause and Manner, Cochise County, Arizona, 2011 (n=15)						
Cause	Natural	Accident	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Total
Medical*	7	0	0	0	0	7
Prematurity	2	0	0	0	0	2
MVC/Transport	0	1	0	0	0	1
Firearm	0	0	1	0	0	1
Suffocation	0	1	0	0	0	1
Blunt/Sharp Force Trauma	0	0	0	1	0	1
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	1	1
Fire/Burn	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	9	3	1	1	1	15
*Excluding Prematurity and SIDS						

PREVENTABILITY

Child fatality review teams consider a child's death preventable if something could have been done (by an individual such as the caregiver or supervisor, or by the community as a whole) that would have prevented the death. The local child fatality review team determined that 33 percent of the deaths among Cochise County children could have been prevented (n=5).

During the review of each child's death, teams identify factors believed to have contributed to the death. Although the presence of a contributing factor typically led to the determination that a death was preventable, this was not always the case. For example, the team might have concluded that an unsafe sleep environment (e.g. infant left sleeping on a couch) was a contributing factor in an unexpected infant death. However, the team may not have had sufficient information (e.g. autopsy report, adequate scene investigation) to determine if the death could have been prevented.

In Cochise County, drugs and/or alcohol were a contributing factor for four deaths (27 percent). Lack of supervision, excessive speed and co-sleeping were contributing factors for one death each (7 percent each) Table 2 shows the most common factors contributing to the deaths of child residents of Cochise County.

Table 2. Contributing Factors for Deaths Among Children, Cochise County, Arizona 2011		
Factor*	Number	Percent
Drugs/alcohol	4	27%
Lack of supervision	1	7%
Excessive speed	1	7%
Co-sleeping	1	7%
*More than one factor may have been identified for each death		

CHILD FATALITIES IN COCHISE COUNTY COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES

This section provides comparisons between the deaths of children who resided in Cochise County and the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 14 Arizona counties. During 2011, 15 children who were residents of Cochise County died, and 793 children died who were residents of the other 14 Arizona counties. Cochise County had a crude rate of 49.8 child deaths per 100,000 residents, a slightly higher rate than the remainder of the state (49.2 deaths per 100,000 residents). Cochise County had a lower percentage of preventable deaths (33 percent, n=5) than the remainder of Arizona (35 percent, n=275).

Medical, such as cancer or asthma, was the leading cause of death for Cochise County children (46 percent, n=7). Prematurity was the second leading cause of death, accounting for 13 percent of child deaths in Cochise County (n=2). Table 3 shows the causes of child deaths for Cochise County compared to same causes of death for the rest of Arizona.

Table 3. Leading Causes of Child Deaths, Cochise County, Arizona, 2011			
Cochise County (n=15)		Arizona, Excluding Cochise County (n=793)	
Cause	Percent of Deaths	Cause	Percent of Deaths
Medical	46%	Medical	41%
Prematurity	13%	Prematurity	24%
MVC/Transport	7%	MVC/Transport	8%
Firearm	7%	Firearm	2%
Suffocation	7%	Suffocation	6%
Blunt/Sharp Force Trauma	7%	Blunt/Sharp Force Trauma	3%
Undetermined	7%	Undetermined	5%
Fire/Burn	7%	Fire/Burn	<1%

In Cochise County, the largest percentage of deaths was due to natural manners (60 percent, for the remaining counties, natural deaths accounted for 65 percent of child deaths. Accidents accounted for 20 percent of the child deaths in Cochise County and 19 percent of the deaths for the reminder of the Arizona counties. Table 4 shows deaths among children by manner for Cochise County compared to the rest of Arizona.

Table 4. Deaths Among Children by Manner, Cochise County, Arizona, 2011			
Cochise County (n=15)		Arizona, Excluding Cochise County (n=793)	
Manner	Percent of Deaths	Manner	Percent of Deaths
Natural	60%	Natural	65%
Accident	20%	Accident	19%
Suicide	7%	Suicide	5%
Homicide	7%	Homicide	5%
Undetermined	7%	Undetermined	6%
Unknown	0%	Unknown	<1%